(b) Subsequent to entering into the MoU, a Brazilian delegation led by Secretary for Development of Production, Ministry for Development, Industry and Foreign Commerce visited India during August 12-14,2002. During this visit, the Brazilian delegation held discussions with the Government and other agencies on various aspects relating to blending of ethanol in petrol. Representatives of Oil Companies; State Governments of Maharashtra and UP; FICCI; Sugar, Distillery and Automotive Industries also participated in these discussions.

Petrol Pumps to Kargil war widows

265. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six years after Kargil War, the nation has not been able to deliver the promised petrol pumps and LPG dealerships to widows of personnel who laid down their lives to win back the heights along the Line of Control (LoC) from Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether Government have made investigations in this matter; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to give the promised relief to Kargil war widows?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Government had introduced a special scheme in 1999 for the allotment of retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps) and LPG distributorships to the widows/next of kin of the defence personnel killed in action in "Operation Vijay" (Kargil). under the scheme, the Director General Resettlement (DGR) under Ministry of Defence, Government of India, recommends to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MOP&NG) the names of the beneficiaries, and the locations where they would like to set up the dealerships/ distributorships. Allotments are approved by the Government on the recommendation of the oil industry, after undertaking feasibility studies of the locations opted for by those beneficiaries.

Out of 475 effective recommendations received from the DGR, as on 10.10.2005,22 persons were not interested in taking up dealerships/

distributorships, and in 4 cases, feasibility study of locations was to be re-done as earlier locations were not found commercially viable. Out of the remaining 449 cases approved for allotment in favour of the widow/ next of kin of the martyrs, 253 retail outlet dealerships and 131 LPG distributorships were commissioned, leaving a blance of 61 retail outlet dealerships and 4 LPG distributorships which were yet to be commissioned. Commissioning of these 65 dealerships/distributorships was held up owing to circumstances enumerated as under:—

(i) Work under progress	-1 case
(ii) Land obtained but clearance awaited.	-8 cases
(iii) Land identified	-10 cases
(iv) Looking for land	-25 cases
(v) Company-Owned-Company-Operated outlets offered	-2 cases
(vi) Letter of Intent to be issued	-11 cases
(vii) Reassessment of feasibility (earlier locations were not viable)	-7 cases
(viii) Request from allottee for change in locations.	-1 case

As can be seen, in most of the cases, delay in commissioning of the allotted dealerships/distributorships is attributable to issues related to acquisition of land. The public sector oil marketing companies, who are to commission these dealerships/distributorships, have been making efforts with Government authorities/private parties to obtain land, and also to complete other formalities for the expeditious commissioning of these allotments.

Decline in crude oil supply to IOC

266. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that British Gas, ONGC and Reliance Industries have decided to snap crude oil sale to IOC;